



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



February 16, 2007

Representative James G. Phinizy, Chairman
Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: HB 540-FN-A, an act relative to solid waste reduction, establishing a solid waste disposal fee, and renaming the recycling market development steering committee

Dear Chairman Phinizy and Members of the Committee:

HB 540-FN-A seeks to assess a \$1 per ton fee on the disposal of solid waste at landfills and incinerators. Revenue generated through this fee will support the enhancement of statewide solid waste source reduction, recycling, reuse, and composting programs. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports the recycling goals of this bill and all efforts that address conservation of natural resources and declining landfill capacity.

Under this bill, non-profit organizations (NPOs) will receive 50% of revenue to provide technical recycling assistance to municipalities and to fund municipal recycling and composting equipment grants. DES will receive 50% of revenue to provide training to municipal solid waste and compost facility operators, to make household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (Ewaste) grants, and to provide administrative support to the reconstituted Recycling Steering Commission created under RSA 149-O. This bill is nearly identical to HB 201-FN-A, introduced this session, and HB 634-FN-A, introduced in the 2005 legislative session.


While DES supports the goals of this bill, we believe the better vehicle for statewide source reduction, recycling and reuse is HB 503-FN, which would impose a \$2.50 per ton fee on the disposal of solid waste. Under HB 503-FN, DES would receive up to 40% of the revenues to fund the state solid waste program, relieving the state general fund of approximately \$1.7 million in annual costs, and to provide resources for complaint investigation and cleanup of abandoned solid waste sites. At least 60% of the revenues would be available for recycling, HHW and E-waste grants to municipalities, NPOs, and businesses. A reconstituted Recycling Steering Committee would provide oversight for the DES grant-making process.

RSA 149-M:2 established a waste reduction goal of 40% for New Hampshire. In 2005, the overall state recycling rate was 29.2%, while the residential recycling rate was only 18.1%. HB 540-FN-A, HB 201-FN-A, and HB 503-FN are expected to increase

recycling rates; however, HB 503-FN would provide more resources for municipal recycling and is more likely to aid the state in achieving the 40% waste reduction goal.

DES appreciates the opportunity to testify with respect to this bill. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call me at 271-2958 or Waste Management Division Director Tony Giunta at 271-2905.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representative Williams
Representative Rous
Representative Hall